

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 29, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM NUSSLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, source of life and all inspiration, breathe Your spirit upon this House, its Members and its guests.

As You breathed upon the waters and brought all Your creatures out of nothingness, as You redeemed Your people, leading them out of darkness into light and out of slavery into freedom, breathe now Your spirit upon us.

Make all in this assembly strong with convictions of justice, wise in judgment, and patient in the service of others.

The breath of life within us finds expression in joy and laughter, in deeds of kindness and generosity, in words of understanding and encouragement.

Help us to know we are temples of Your presence here on Earth. Empower us to bring peace and freedom to our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We pray to You, the living God, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches from each side.

CONGRESS MUST PASS A VICTIMS' RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NOW

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Congress must follow the lead of 32 States, including my home State of Ohio, and pass the "Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment."

This amendment will empower crime victims by allowing them to confront their assailants in a courtroom and at sentencing and parole hearings. It will also protect victims by requiring that they be notified about the release or escape of the perpetrator from custody. Finally, the amendment will restore victims by guaranteeing them the

right to seek restitution from their attackers.

For far too long, victims of crime in this country have had to stand on the courthouse steps with meaningful justice just beyond their reach: not allowed to view proceedings in person sometimes, not permitted to speak out on behalf of a murdered loved one, not even notified when a violent abuser is turned loose.

Crime victims deserve to be treated better. They deserve to be treated with dignity in our criminal justice system.

With the adoption of this amendment, we will finally fortify an important truth, that victims must have their own inalienable rights under our Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS: BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my 1 minute on internationally abducted children.

In December 1997, Rosana Wayson, at 3½, was abducted to Germany by her mother. The German court overturned the U.S. court order guaranteeing Rosana daily visitation with her father, Mark, and made no provisions regarding future contact.

Mark Wayson has not had any contact with his daughter since August of 1998. He has traveled to Germany 13 times in the last 2 years attempting to gain access to the legal system. The family court has refused to allow him to testify or to present evidence. In Rosana's case, the German government first refused to accept the Hague Convention application and later dismissed it summarily.

Last Thursday I joined my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), and introduced a concurrent resolution urging signatories to uphold the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction. This resolution was introduced with 126 original cosponsors, a powerful statement on the importance of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to put pressure on other countries that are Hague signatories that are not abiding by the Hague treaty. I urge my colleagues to join me in getting the message out and help bring our children home.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.